

FOI REF:	16264
RESPONSE SENT:	28/10/2025

Request

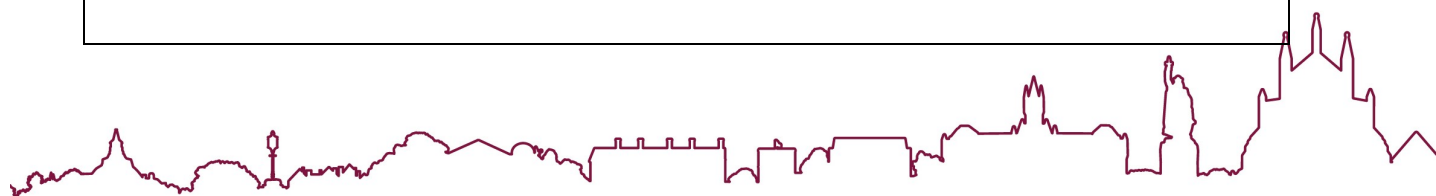
I am making this Freedom of Information request on behalf of Adrian Ramsay, Green Party MP for Waveney Valley, to ascertain the level of local authority preparedness pertaining to climate adaptation across the UK. The recent letter from the Climate Change Committee to Minister Hardy in a response to a request for advice on strengthening the UK's adaptation objectives has once again emphasised the importance of adaptation in addressing the far-reaching impacts of climate change in the UK and the data collected will be invaluable in Adrian's continuing efforts in Parliament and beyond to support councils in their climate adaptation planning and implementation. To ensure that we collect data covering the key aspects of the issue, we have developed a short questionnaire comprising of 10 questions with associated tick boxes that should be relatively quick and straightforward to answer, as most require yes/no answers. If you are unable to answer any questions in the time available, please answer what you can.

QUESTIONS REGARDING LOCAL AUTHORITY PREPAREDNESS WITH REGARD TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION

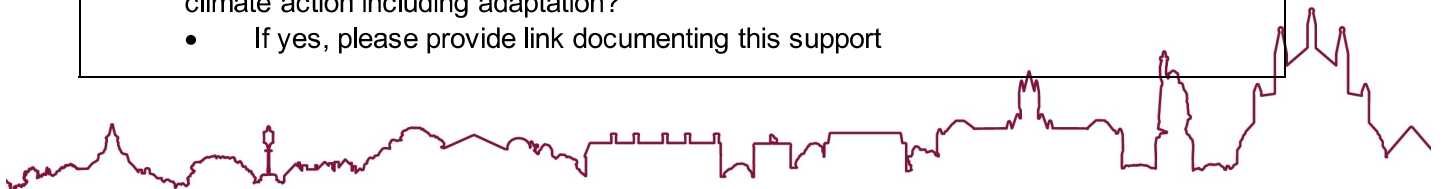
1. Does the council have a climate adaptation strategy?
 - If yes, is this rolled into the mitigation/Net Zero strategy or is it set out in the form of a separate/stand-alone document?
 - Please provide link to the document.

2. Has the council conducted a climate risk assessment?
 - If yes, please provide link to the document
 - If yes, was it produced using the Local Partnerships Risk Areas Matrix?
 - What sectors does the climate risk assessment cover?
 - Public buildings
 - Residential buildings
 - New developments
 - Schools
 - Care homes
 - Roads and other transport infrastructure
 - Communication networks – telecom and ITC
 - Energy infrastructure
 - Local businesses
 - Other – please specify

3. Has the council also produced a local climate adaptation action plan with associated timeframe for implementing and reviewing the strategy?
 - If yes, please provide link to the document



4. What measures has the council put in place to withstand the climate impacts (e.g. severe heat, flooding, coastal erosion) experienced or predicted for your area? For example, by implementing:
 - Measures to alleviate flood risks and manage flooding
 - Measures to increase resilience of new building developments to climate impacts
 - Measures to reduce excess heat in new residential buildings
 - Measures to address overheating in schools, hospitals, care homes and other public buildings
 - Places for the public to gather in the event of a major climate disaster
 - Blue and green spaces
 - Strategies to manage climate-induced health problems
 - Improvements to make transport infrastructure more resilient
 - Nature based solutions, such as tree planting or creating wetlands
 - Coastal defences
 - SuDS (sustainable drainage systems)
 - Water efficiency measures
 - Ways of working with farmers to increase resilience of the food system and align adaptation objectives
 - Measures to enhance community engagement
 - Are there other key measures that you have taken? Please give details.
5. Does the council have access to all the necessary information, technical advice and support to deliver on adaptation planning and implementation?
6. Has the council identified funding gaps hindering its ability to implement adaptation action planning?
 - Which aspects would be priorities for additional funding?
7. Has the council identified shortfalls in its capacity, skills and experience to deliver required adaptation actions?
 - If yes, what is needed?
8. Is the Council aware of, and does it have the capacity to draw in, external funds for climate adaptation measures? e.g.
 - Combined Authority funding
 - Parish Council funding for small scale schemes - water butts, tree planting
 - Business contributions through Partnership Funding
 - Community Infrastructure Levy
 - Partnerships with third sector organisations such as Woodland Trust.
9. Did the council submit a report to ARP4?
 - If yes, please provide a link
10. Has the council supported the call, as articulated by the LGA, for local authorities to be given statutory duties and powers, sufficient funding and robust support to lead on climate action including adaptation?
 - If yes, please provide link documenting this support



Response

1. No, Winchester City Council does not have a Climate Adaptation Strategy. However, it is in the process of developing a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) for the Winchester district. This is a key priority within the Council Plan 2025-2030.
2. Winchester City Council is in the process of developing a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) for the Winchester district. The council is using the Local Partnerships Risk Areas Matrix to support with conducting the risk assessment. The risk assessment covers all sectors listed above including: public buildings, residential buildings, new developments, schools, care homes, roads and other transport infrastructure, communication networks, energy infrastructure, and local businesses.
3. No, Winchester City Council has not yet produced a local climate adaptation action plan with associated timeframe for implementing and reviewing the strategy.
4. Winchester City Council has already implemented some measures to reduce future climate impacts such as flooding. For example, the council has installed large-scale infrastructure projects such as the North Winchester and Durngate flood defence schemes which use barriers, bunds, and sluice gates to protect homes and businesses in Winchester. The council collaborates with partners like the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council on these projects and has developed a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to guide future planning decisions.

The council's Local Plan 2020-2040 also contains a number of policies aimed at ensuring new development in the district is developed to withstand present and future climate impacts. For example, measures designed to help to mitigate the impacts of high temperatures and overheating (Policy CN1); the provision of Green/Blue Infrastructure (Policy NE4); high standards of water efficiency in new developments (Policy CN4); and measures to reduce flood risk through use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS) (Policy NE6) and increase biodiversity net gain (Policy NE5).

5. The council has access to national data, tools, and resources to support with developing a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) for the Winchester district. This includes tools like the Local Authority Climate Service (LACS), Local Climate Adaptation Tool (LCAT), and Climate Risk Indicators Explorer. However, there are limitations with these tools and data gaps which presents a challenge to assess vulnerability at a local/neighbourhood level within the Winchester district (i.e., high granularity of data sets to 12km grid). The Local Partnerships Climate Adaptation toolkit provides a useful resource to



support with understanding the process and requirements of adaptation planning and implementation. However, aside from this resource, there is limited technical advice available to local authorities looking to compile a climate risk assessment and develop/implement a climate adaptation strategy.

6. Winchester City Council has not yet developed a climate adaptation strategy and/or action plan. Therefore no funding gaps have yet been identified nor quantified.
7. Winchester City Council has sufficient internal capacity in place to develop an initial climate risk and vulnerability assessment. However, the council has not yet developed a climate adaptation strategy and/or action plan. Therefore, no capacity/skill/experience shortfalls have been identified which may hinder the council's ability to deliver the required adaptation actions.
8. The council may be able to secure external funding to support with implementing climate adaptation projects and interventions (i.e., CIL). Funding options will be explored in further detail when the council develops its climate adaptation strategy and action plan in the future.
9. No
- 10.No

